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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/Berlin

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Change of Russian Attitude Towards the
SPD and the SEDINFO. 

DIST. 31 March 1947

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ORIGIN 

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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1. It is reported that as a result of the debacle of the SED at the late elections, the Russians are considering following, as an experiment in Berlin only, a new policy re-establishing relations with the SPD and, at the same time, leaving the SED to fend for itself.
2. The Russians intend to consult the SPD leaders in connection with the needs of the workmen and other social questions and, by occasional concessions, to curry favor with the present leaders of the SPD. The result will, the Russians hope, virtually be to win over the present leaders of the SPD with the notable exception of Schumacher, whom the Russians realize they cannot either influence or suborn.
3. One of the ex-members of the SPD on whom the Russians intend to work is Erich Lübke, an SED Stadtrat in the Magistrat, whom they hope to induce to persuade his SPD contacts that closer relations with the Russians will mean that it is the SPD which will bring prosperity to the German working class.
4. Conversations have taken place between the Russians and Klingelhofer, the economic expert of the SPD. The Russian officers struck Klingelhofer as being part of a new contingent with fresh ideas from Moscow. They spoke to Klingelhofer of the necessity of the socialization of German industry, and said that the influence of the SPD would be of use in attaining this end. Klingelhofer is an old advocate of socialization of industry and was most favorably impressed by the Russians.
5. Smolensky of the SPD was similarly interviewed by Russians, who consulted him upon the needs of German workmen, stating that Moscow would be sending experts to study such questions in Germany. Some of the present staff, he was told, who were merely part of the military occupation, would be giving place to "bearers of goodwill and peace".
6. Smolensky's impression was that the Russians have abandoned support of the SED and, in conformity with their usual policy, were changing their staff as they changed their plans.

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